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Page 2

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the first paragraph on page 2 as follows:

C | Unfortunately, analytically minimizing this cost function is mathematically intractable even for relatively simple scenarios (see e.g. J. Salz and E. Zehavi, "Decoding under integer metric constraints", IEEE Transactions on Communications, vol. 43, pp. 307-317, 1995). Accordingly, ~~ad-hoc solutions are often used.~~